

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended): A conveying system comprising:
a conveyor conveying articles in a direction of travel along a carryway, the conveyor including:
a plurality of transport elements arranged on the conveyor to ride along parallel lateral tracks transverse to the direction of travel; and
a motor associated with each of the transport elements to drive the associated transport element along one of the tracks; and
a local controller associated with each of the transport elements and with the associated motor to control the activation of the motor;
wherein the local controller is located with its associated transport element to ride with the transport element along one of the tracks.
2. (original): A conveying system as in claim 1 further comprising a sensor electrically connected to an associated local controller to provide a sensor signal indicative of a position along the carryway.
3. (original): A conveying system as in claim 1 wherein the conveyor further includes a coil associated with a transport element for inductively coupling electric power to the associated local controller.
4. (original): A conveying system as in claim 1 wherein the conveyor further includes a coil associated with a transport element for receiving message signals and further including a receiver electrically coupled to the coil to extract the message signals from the coil.

5. (original): A conveying system as in claim 1 further comprising a transceiver associated with each transport element for transmitting and receiving message signals.
6. (original): A conveying system as in claim 1 wherein the conveyor further includes a battery associated with a transport element to power the associated local controller and motor.
7. (original): A conveying system as in claim 6 wherein the battery is a rechargeable battery.
8. (original): A conveying system as in claim 1 further comprising:
 - a system controller external to the conveyor; and
 - a communications link between the system controller and the local controller.
9. (original): A conveying system as in claim 1 wherein each of the transport elements has a uniquely associated motor.
10. (original): A conveying system as in claim 1 wherein the motor is located with its associated transport element to ride with the transport element along one of the tracks.
11. (canceled)
12. (original): A conveying system as in claim 1 wherein the motor is disposed at a fixed position in the conveyor.
13. (canceled)
14. (currently amended): A conveying system comprising:
 - a slat conveyor conveying articles in a direction of travel along a carryway, the slat conveyor including:
 - a plurality of parallel drag chains driven in the direction of travel;
 - a plurality of parallel slats attached to and spanning the drag chains, at least some of the slats including:
 - a lateral slot formed in the slat in a direction transverse to the direction of travel;

a transport element arranged to ride along the slot;
a motor arranged to drive the transport element along the slot; and
a local controller associated with the motor to control the activation of the motor;
wherein the local controller is located with the transport element to ride with the
transport element along the lateral slot.

15. (original): A conveying system as in claim 14 further comprising:

an electric power source external to the slot conveyor and including an ungrounded
terminal; and
wherein the plurality of drag chains includes a powered drag chain electrically connected
to the ungrounded terminal of the electric power source to power the motor.

16. (original): A conveying system as in claim 15 wherein the powered drag chain includes
sockets along its length and wherein at least some of the slats include a prong that plugs into
the sockets to provide the motor with electric power from the powered drag chain.

17. (original): A conveying system as in claim 14 further comprising a powered rail disposed in
the slot.

18. (original): A conveying system as in claim 14 wherein the motor is located with the transport
element to ride with the transport element along the slot.

19. (original): A conveying system as in claim 18 further comprising a powered conducting rail
disposed in the slot and a brush extending from the transport element to contact the powered
conducting rail to provide electric power to the motor.

20. (original): A conveying system as in claim 14 wherein the slot forms a cavity in which the
motor is mounted.